

Chichester District Council

COUNCIL

15 December 2015

Chichester Traders Market – Petition

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That Council notes receipt of the petition and, following debate, considers the recommendations of Cabinet that concern this issue.**

3. Background to the Petition

- 3.1. The Chichester and Bognor Green Party, in response to the Chichester Observer's coverage of a Cabinet item in March 2015, started to gather signatures to a petition. The petition was formally presented to Cllr Mrs Gillian Keegan on 15 September 2015, and reads:

"We, the undersigned, call on our Chamber of Commerce and District Council, to support the Traders' Market. Please sign below and let us know if you would like the market on the Cattle Market car park or on the city streets or if you don't mind at all"

- 3.2. The Council's Petition Scheme outlines both how this Council recognises petitions and commits to respond to them. Where the number of signatures exceeds 1000, Full Council is required to debate the issue, and to confirm what action it will take as a response.
- 3.3. The petition was initially validated by the Corporate Information Team. A summary provided by the Chichester and Bognor Green Party suggests that the petition was signed by 1,169 people; analysis identified 1,082 signatures, but only 924 where sufficient information had been provided to make the individual identifiable. The Petition Scheme requires name, address and signature for any single petitioner.
- 3.4. Mrs Sarah Sharp, as representative of the Chichester and Bognor Green Party and the organiser of this petition, is granted up to 5 minutes to address full Council.
- 3.5. Broadly, the issue has been considered by a Member Task and Finish Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services, Cllr Mrs Gillian Keegan. A report, which includes the Task and Finish Group's recommendations, was considered by Cabinet at their meeting of 1

December (Appendix 1 to this report). Cllr Mrs Keegan will speak in response to Mrs Sharp and outline the Task and Finish Group's and Cabinet's recommendations. A debate on this issue will be allowed for up to 30 minutes, before the Cabinet's recommendations are considered.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

4.1. In receiving a petition, Council is required to consider the matter fully through debate, and to confirm the actions it will take. The options available to Council, as detailed in the Petition Scheme, are:

- Taking the action requested in the petition
- Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate
- Commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.

5. Alternatives that have been considered

5.1. Analysis of the petition suggests that it may not have achieved the required level of signatures, which might allow Council to reject the request of the Petitioner to debate the issue. However, the petition still represents a significant number of people with an interest in the Traders Market, and the results of the petition do not illustrate the wider points Mrs Sharp would like to highlight. As the matter is before Council at this meeting, this item can further inform the decision to be made on the Cabinet's recommendations.

6 Appendix

6.1 Cabinet Report December 2015

7 Background Papers

None